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Department of State POL 14 VIETS TELEGRAM

YIN POL 15-2 VIETS

SECRET 892

EXCISE

SAIGON-11530
7-17-70

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ACTION SS-45

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/C/C MR
REVIEWED BY Juan J. J. J. DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SECRET SAIGON 11520

EXDIS

SUBJECT: SENATORIAL SLATES.

1. BERGER AND I DISCUSSED OUTLOOK FOR SENATE ELECTIONS WITH THIEU AND KHIEM IN MY FAREWELL CALLS YESTERDAY AND TODAY. THEY WERE BOTH SURPRISED THAT THERE WERE ONLY 18 SLATES, AND ATTRIBUTED THIS TO HIGH COST OF CAMPAIGNING AND THE FORFEITURE FEATURE IF SLATES FAILED TO GET MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF VOTES. THEY THOUGHT TWO OR THREE OF THE REGISTERED SLATES WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED OR WOULD DROP OUT BEFORE THE ELECTION ON AUGUST 30.

2. THEY THOUGHT PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE HUYEN'S AND SENATOR CAO'S SLATES WOULD BE THE TWO STRONGEST AND WOULD WIN. BOTH ARE PRO OR FRIENDLY TO THE GOVERNMENT. THEY THOUGHT THE NEXT STRONGEST SLATE WOULD BE THE ONE HEADED BY MAU AND SUPPORTED BY THE TRI QUANG FACTION OF THE AN QUANG BUDDHISTS.

3. WE ASKED KHIEM IF THERE WAS ANY DANGER OF THE AN QUANG SUPPORTED SLATE BEING DISQUALIFIED. HE LAUGHED AND SAID THAT WOULD NOT BE WISE POLITICALLY.

4. THIEU SAID THE NSDF HAD FAILED MISERABLY. THEY WERE UNABLE TO GET TOGETHER ON A COALITION SLATE AND EACH PARTY WAS GOING ITS OWN WAY AND WOULD BE DEFEATED. HE ALL BUT SAID HE WAS WASHING HIS HANDS OF THE NSDF. THIEU THOUGHT THE CATHOLICS NOW HAD SO MANY CANDIDATES ON SO MANY SLATES THAT THEY TOO WOULD SUFFER, EXCEPT FOR THOSE IN THE TWO LEADING SLATES.

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